

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 DHA-05 /066 W

-----073629 061052Z /21

R 051921Z OCT 77

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6980

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, PE

SUBJECT: PERU'S CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS SET FOR JUNE 4, 1978

1. A CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY WILL BE ELECTED JUNE 4, 1978, FOR THE SOLE PURPOSE OF GIVING PERU A NEW CONSTITUTION, ACCORDING TO A GOVERNMENT DECREE OF OCT 4 (TEXT BEING POUCHED DEPT). THE ASSEMBLY WILL OPEN JULY 28, 1978, AND END IN MID-JULY, 1979. ELECTIONS TO THE ASSEMBLY WILL BE ON A NATIONWIDE BASIS RATHER THAN BY DISTRICT. THE MODALITIES, PROCESSES AND CONDITIONS REGULATING ELECTION PROCEDURES WILL BE SPECIFIED BY LAW. THE DECREE FOLLOWED BY ONE DAY THE 9TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT'S TAKEOVER OF POWER OCT 3, 1968.

2. THE DECREE IDENTIFIES THE TASK OF THE ASSEMBLY AS THE INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF THE REVOLUTIONARY CHANGES OF THE PAST 9 YEARS AND THE DEFINITION OF THE STRUCTURE OF THE STATE, THE EXERCISE OF POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC PLURALISM, THE MECHANICS OF THE PARTICIPATION OF THE PEOPLE AND THE ASSURANCE OF FULL AND FREE EXERCISE OF HUMAN RIGHTS.

3. NEWS STORES NOTED THAT PRESIDENT MORALES BERMUDEZ HAD EARLIER STATED THAT A PURELY FORMAL DEMOCRACY SUCH AS THAT PRIOR TO OCTOBER 1968 WAS NOT A "GENUINE DEMOCRACY." A TRUE DEMOCRACY  
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REQUIRES POPULAR PARTICIPATION IN POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DECISION MAKING. THE PRESIDENT ALSO HAD PLEDGED THAT THE MAXIMUM ASSURANCE OF FREE POLITICAL CHOICE WOULD BE GUARANTEED BY THE ARMED FORCES AND POLICE. OCT 5 PRESS ALSO ANNOUNCED WITHOUT DETAILS THAT THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS HAS APPROVED THE LONG-AWAITED PLAN TUPAC AMARU, WHICH WILL BE  
MADE PUBLIC ON OCT 9

(DAY OF NATIONAL DIGNITY--ANNIVERSARY OF THE IPC TAKEOVER).

4. COMMENT: OTHER THAN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PERU AS A SINGLE ELECTORAL DISTRICT, THE DECREE SHEDS LITTLE LIGHT ON THE MECHANICS

OF CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS, E.G., WHO WILL VOTE AND WILL "MASS ORGANIZATIONS" HAVE ALLOTTED REPRESENTATION. NONETHESS, THE GOP IS MAKING ITS PLANS FOR THE RETURN TO CONSTITUTIONAL RULE INCREASINGLY SPECIFIC AND, IN PRINCIPLE, IRREVERSIBLE. THE STRATEGY ALSO TENDS TO DISTRACT ATTENTION FOR THE MOMENT AT LEAST, FROM PERU'S SEVERE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS, AND THE ANNOUNCEMENT AT THIS TIME COULD BE DISGNEED IN PAR TO OFFSET ADDITIONAL AUSTERITY MEASURES STEMMING FROM THE IMF NEGOTIATIONS WHICH ARE RUMORED TO BE FORTHCOMING SHORTLY.  
SHLAUDEMAM

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**Review Markings:**  
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